

# **ASM & child labour**

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# Setting the scene

## What is economic impact of ASM?

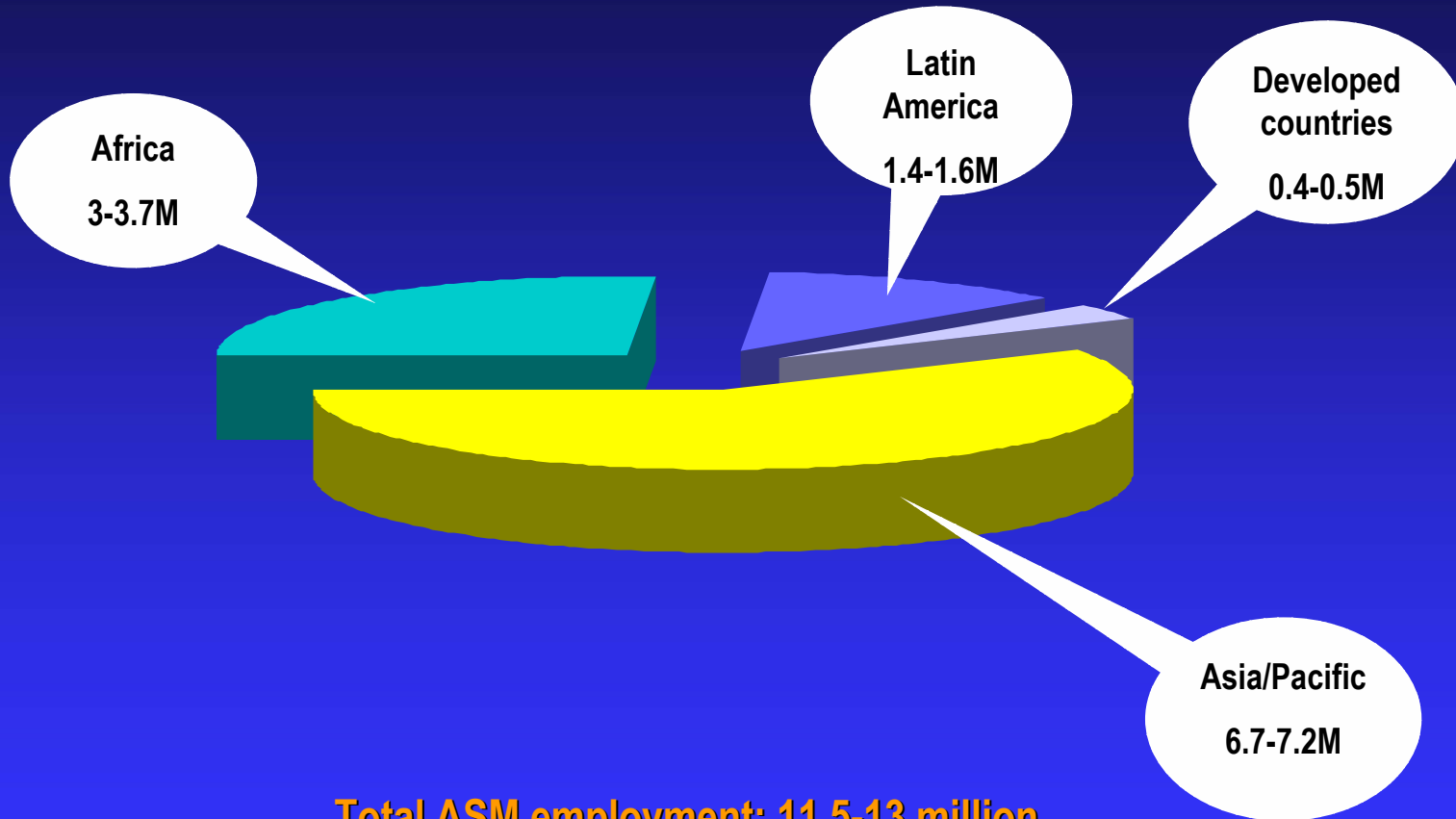
- **Employment:** 11.5-13 million
- **Dependence:** 80-100 million
- **Production:** 20-25% non-fuel minerals
- **Annual value:** ~\$2 bn gold & gems in Africa  
>\$200 m gold in >6 countries  
15% of all diamonds (\$1.2 bn)



● **ASM cannot be ignored**



# Employment in ASM



**Total ASM employment: 11.5-13 million**

**Dependence 80-100 million**

**Number of children ?**



# What does most ASM lack?

- \$\$
- Training
- Literacy
- Infrastructure
- Political clout
- Awareness
- Safety regulations
- Adequate equipment
- Legal framework
- Enforcement

● **More accidents than in large mines**

● **But some risks are less**

● **Special problems in small coal mines**

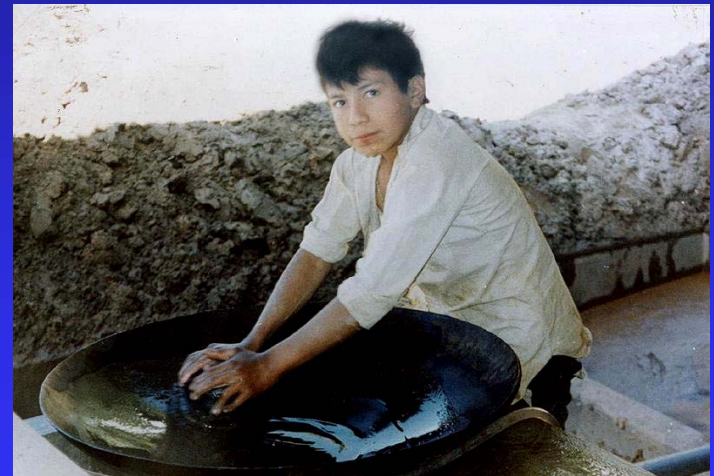
● **Child labour is widespread**



# Mercury amalgamation

## Effects of direct/indirect exposure

- Colic, vomiting, gastro-enteritis
  - Kidney & urinary tract infections
  - Acute enteritis
  - Gum ulcers
- 
- Acute sensitivity to light



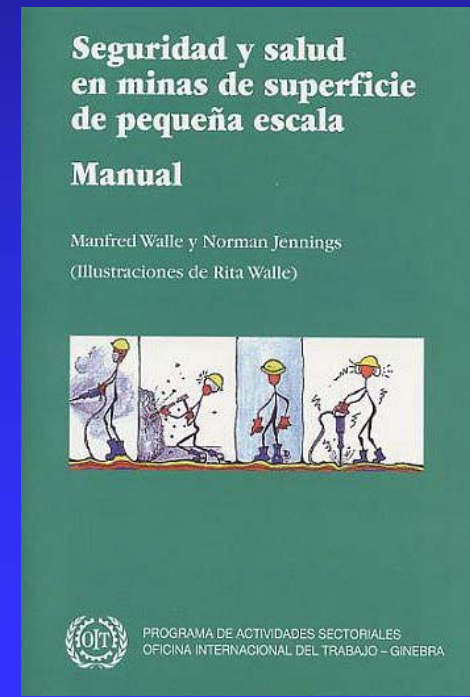
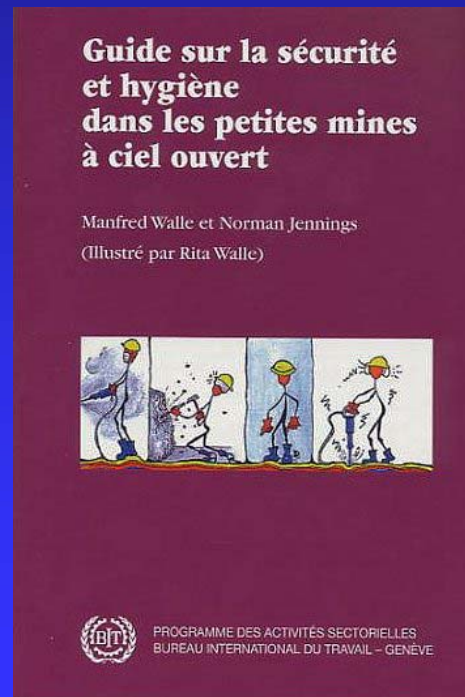
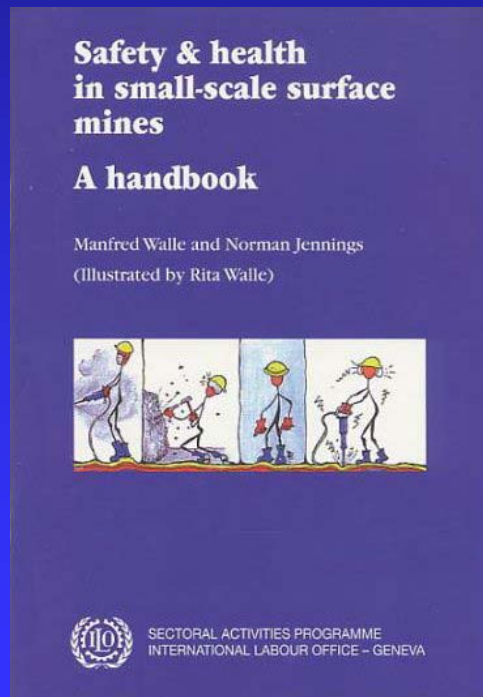
# What to do?

- Bring ASM under regulations (C176)
- Use ILO handbook on OSH in ssm
- Provide technical & admin. support
- Provide training
- Recognize legitimate self-interest of ASM
- Ensure technology works
- Demonstrate cash benefits
- Involve all stakeholders
- Ensure “ownership”
- ***Eliminate child labour***
- Keep it clear and simple



# Handbooks

## ILO Handbook: English, French, Spanish, Portuguese, Hindi, Urdu, Polish, Malagasy



# Provides practical, illustrated guidance

The basic personal protective equipment should be:



← *safety helmet (hard hat)* where falling objects might create a hazard.

← *protective gloves* when handling materials or performing work which might cause injury to the hands.

← *suitable protective footwear* (e.g. safety shoes or rubber boots) where there is a danger of slipping or of injury to the feet.

*Hat, gloves, boots: wear them always.*

**This minimum standard protection should be worn at all times in and around the mine.**



← *safety glasses/goggles* where there is a danger from flying particles that may cause injury to the eyes (e.g. where hard rock is to be broken).

Other personal protection may also be required, such as:

- *closely-fitting clothes* when working with or around moving machinery or equipment;
- *safety belts and lines* where there is a danger of falling.





# Who should be involved?

- Governments
- IGOs (ILO, World Bank, UN, etc.)
- CASM
- Large mining companies (ICMM)
- Trade unions
- NGOs
- Local community

● All the “stakeholders”

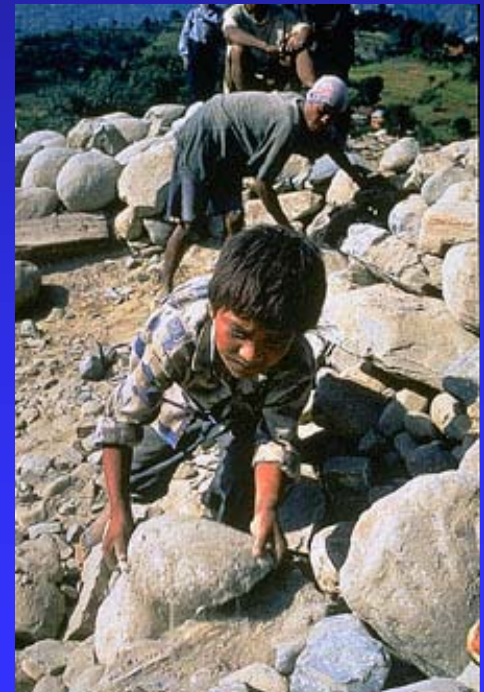
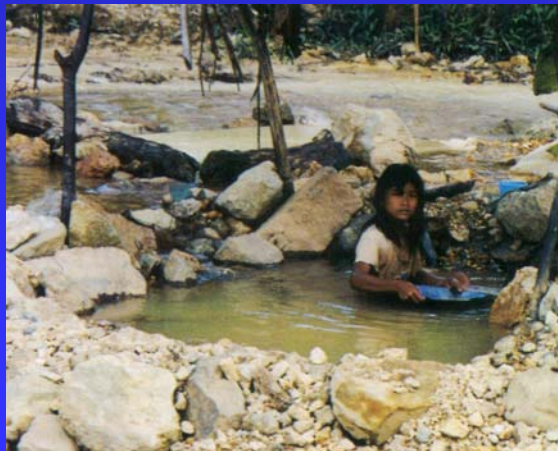


# Why?

- **So ASM can be a source of Decent Work in a sustainable environment**
  - **Freely chosen**
  - **Rights respected**
  - **Social protection**
  - *No child labour*
  - **Reasonable earnings**
  - **Safe & healthy**
  - **Organized**
  - **Sustainable communities**



# ● No child labour



# ● No child labour



# ☉ No child labour



● Not even if it looks OK



**ASM constitutes one of the  
“worst forms of child labour”.  
Its elimination is covered by  
ILO Convention 182\***



\*Ratified by 149 of ILO's 176 member States



# IPEC

(International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour)

- **Projects to eliminate child labour in small-scale mines in:**
  - **India, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines**
  - **Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru**
  - **Kenya, Madagascar, Tanzania, Zambia**
- **Projects being developed elsewhere too**
  - **Mineral processing, including gemstone cutting & polishing, can also involve child labour**



# The bottom line

- **ASM can be**
  - **Profitable**
  - **Productive**
  - **Safe**
  - **Healthy**
  - **A contributor to sustainable livelihoods**
  - **A source of decent work**
  - **Environmentally acceptable**
  - *Child labour free*





# How?

- Mobilize will and \$\$ for a sustained programme of:
  - Education, Training, Demonstration, Surveillance, Follow-up
- Provide incentives for continuation
- Appeal to self-interest
- Answer “What’s in it for me?”
- Look at the community side
  - Focus on sustainable livelihoods
- Prepare for a long haul
- Engage all the stakeholders



# Why are we here?

- To see what has *Not* worked
  - Don't spend longer on it
- To see what has the *Potential* to work
  - Where?
  - Under what conditions?
  - What are the constraints?
    - ◆ How to overcome them?
- To see what *Has* worked
  - And how it can be replicated



# No more child labour in ASM?

- **If child labour is 10% of ASM workforce**
  - It must be possible to remove about 1 million children from this activity
    - ◆ Unlike in trafficking and agriculture
- **Even if it were 20%**
  - The task is not insurmountable
- **IPEC, CASM and other partners can succeed**
  - By demonstrating success
  - And persevering

